



Rundle Foundation e-Newsletter | Edition 5

1 December 2021

Welcome

Message from the ACE Director

Dear Member,

As 2021 draws to a close, I want to thank you for your continued support as a member of the Rundle Foundation. Despite the year's upheavals, we enjoyed an on-line conference in May, managed to squeeze in an event in June to farewell our colleagues Associate Professors Boyo Ockinga and Yann Tristant, and continued our stimulating zoom lecture series as the months rattled past. Despite the absence of fieldwork during the year, the ACE research program advanced as you see from the report below from Professor Naguib Kanawati. Young scholars were supported and shared their research, while we welcomed two new Research Fellows – Dr Susan Kelly and Dr Georgia Barker – into our midst.

Your valuable support helped make much of this possible. Next year, we look forward to your continued partnership in our mission to promote Egypt across the University and beyond, as we bring you the best of Australian Egyptology. In the meantime, best wishes for a restful and safe holiday season.

Best wishes, Karin

Dr Karin Sowada
The Australian Centre for Egyptology

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A major discovery at Beni Hassan



Beni Hassan – Tomb of Baket II (Middle Kingdom): Main shaft, the entrance to Room 3, showing animate figures, hieratic inscriptions and the burial pit. Photo: Australian Centre for Egyptology.

[Professor Naguib Kanawati](#) reports on a season in Middle Egypt:

As one of the most important and well preserved Middle Kingdom sites, Beni Hassan has attracted the attention of many scholars, including Champollion, Lepsius, Garstang, Wilkinson and finally Newberry, whose publications of the decorated tombs (1890-1894) remained until recently the main source of information on the site. The aims of the current project is to produce a complete and accurate record of the architectural features as well as the scenes and inscriptions of all the tombs. With most of the shafts and burial chambers excavated previously but with no available data, these had to be re-cleared for our record to be complete.

In January-February 2019, the main shaft of Baqet II, governor of the Oryx Nome at the end of the Eleventh Dynasty, was cleared. It was a massive undertaking as the shaft descended to the depth of 24.10 metres, but the finds in the burial apartment exceeded all expectations. Composed of five rooms, all funerary objects were present, except for the coffin, presumably removed by an earlier excavator. Fortunately, however, the complete skeletal remains were emptied in the burial pit in Room 3. All four walls of this room are painted with scenes showing animate figures, including the tomb owner, herdsmen and live animals. The lower sections of the walls contained hieratic and cursive-hieroglyphic inscriptions from the Pyramid and Coffin Texts. Rooms 4 and 5 are magazines that contained a large number of pottery vessels, many with the remains of food items.

The evidence from Baqet II's burial apartment is currently being analysed by a number of scholars and is throwing light on funerary customs at the transition between the Eleventh and Twelfth Dynasties. This appears to have been a combative period, with internal and external conflicts. As a result, many tombs were left unfinished, and human remains show injuries and death at a young age. Baqet II was around 25-35 years old at death.

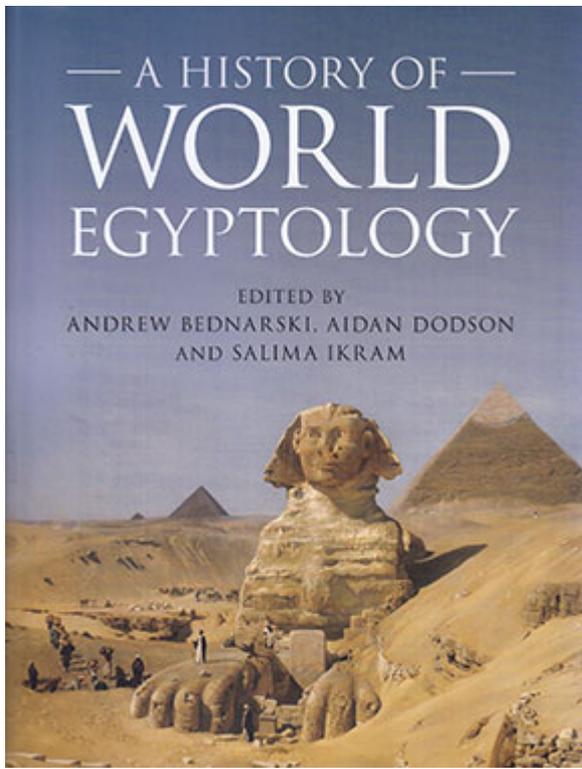
Australasia in "A History of World Egyptology"

Chapter 20: Australasia

(pp. 448-473)

by [Boyo G. Ockinga](#)

"Egyptology in the narrow sense of the formal study of ancient Egypt at tertiary and professional level, came late to Australasia. However, popular Egyptology in the sense of the public interest in ancient Egypt and that aspect



of it now termed Egyptomania, goes back to the early years of European settlement, and is well documented in the press from the nineteenth century onwards".

The chapter covers the beginnings of the Egyptian collections in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth—as well as Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin in New Zealand.

The reader can also find out about the important ties with the Egypt Exploration Fund (now Society), the role of Australians travelling to Europe through the Suez Canal, the First World War, the influences on architecture, and the establishment of Egyptology as a discipline at universities in Australia and New Zealand.

The book only covers the world history of the discipline until the early 1970s. How much more could we add on developments over the last 50 years as we have now well and truly arrived in the 21st century! The next chapter is waiting to be written!

Ockinga, B. (2021). "Australasia", in: A. Bednarski, A. Dodson, and S. Ikram (eds), [A History of World Egyptology](#). (pp. 448-473). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ISBN 978-1-1074-7736-0 (eBook), ISBN 978-1-1070-6283-2 (hardback). doi:10.1017/9781107477360.022

The frontmatter and the **Table of Contents** of this highly informative and insightful volume is readily available >>> [here](#). If you are a student or an alumnus of Macquarie University, you have access to the [electronic version](#) of the book through **Macquarie University Library** >>> [here](#).

STOP PRESS: Luxor 25 November 2021

The **Avenue of Sphinxes** in Luxor was officially opened on Thursday 25 November with a grand fantasia. Enjoy the "Best Moments" of the **Grand Opening** >>> [here](#).

New member of Egyptology research staff

Congratulations to [Dr Georgia Barker](#) on the award of a one-year Macquarie University COVID Recovery Research Fellowship for the project "**Impacts of Instability: Funerary Models, Wall Scenes and Inscriptions at Asyut**". Georgia will join Sue Kelly (eNewsletter 4) as a member of the Macquarie Egyptology staff team. You will remember Georgia from our ACE/Rundle Lecture series in August 2021, when she presented results from her recent PhD research on funerary models (eNewsletter 1). We look forward to Georgia's contribution in 2022.

Students in Egyptology: MRes projects (2021)

2021 has seen an impressive group of students complete the **Master of Research (MRes)** degree with topics in Egyptology. We acknowledge their achievements and congratulate them on this wonderful milestone. We wish them well as they embark on the next stage of their studies and professional careers.

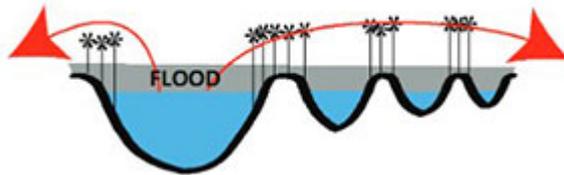
Shannon Collis	Engaging with visual language theory: understanding the meaning, modality and grammar of elite mortuary imagery in Middle Kingdom Egypt.
Madeline Jenkins	'Sadness' in the ancient Egyptian lexicon: a lexical-semantic analysis of the lexeme <i>ind</i> .
Kate Keeble	The art of art history in Egyptology: towards a deconstruction of disciplinary traditions.
Bree Kelly	Innovations in machine learning: a case study on the Fabricius Workshop.
Austin Megier	'One sings for you with the hand': gestures in Old Kingdom musical ensemble scenes.
Hannah Vogel	Contesting ableist narratives in Egyptology: a theoretical recalibration of 'disability' in Old Kingdom Egypt.

Rundle Member News

Earlier this year, Dr John Burn's thesis (completed in 2019) appeared in the BAR International Archaeological Reports series:

[A river in 'drought'? Environment and cultural ramifications of Old Kingdom climate change.](#)

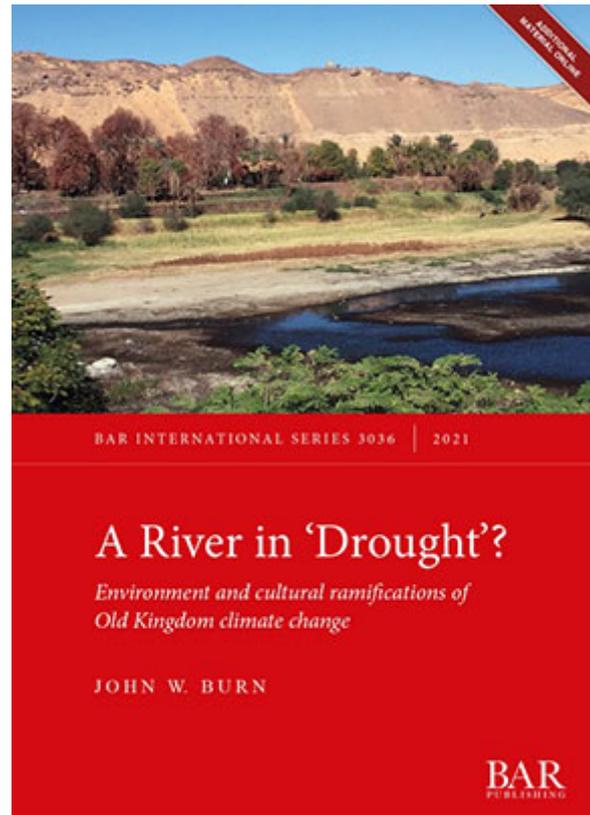
Many of us have heard John speak in such an interesting manner on his topic on various occasions, at USER and at international conferences while he was still in the process of researching. How wonderful that this has now reached the stage of publication.



John writes about his work: I was able to combine my interests in the sciences and Egyptology. My study involved a cross-disciplinary approach to investigate potential ecological changes that arose from the climate change experienced at the end of the Old Kingdom. The research analysed riverine ecosystems and proposed types of changing environmental circumstances that would have arisen during this time. Then the artistic themes within Old Kingdom tomb decoration were studied to see if any significant changes in subject or focus could be determined. From the observations, an environmental narrative was proposed, that led to the basic conclusion that the society at the end of the Old Kingdom was more resilient and adaptable than traditionally regarded.

Congratulations, Dr John!

It is marvellous to see that [Dr John Burn](#) was recently chosen to speak as one of only twelve of the best graduates across four faculties at Macquarie University for the [Early Career Researchers Showcase 2021](#) ("Tomorrow's world-leading



You are interested in having a sneak peek? The Introduction and the Table of Contents are available for download on the [publisher's website](#).

researchers making today's world-changing impacts") held just last week, on 25 November 2021. For this, the presenters were given the challenge of showcasing the complexity of their research to an esteemed panel of judges in only five minutes.

For members, students and everybody: participate in Photo-Challenge 2022 this summer



Wherever you live and work, visit and go for walks, have you spotted Egyptian motifs on buildings, outside and inside, in gardens, Egyptianising architecture (historical or modern), examples of Egyptomania? – Let us document together how ancient Egypt has inspired the imagination of the world around us – far away from Egypt itself.

Here is the plan:

You found an obelisk? a winged sun-disk? a monument? a pylon? a sphinx? a pyramid? a utilitarian building shaped like an Egyptian temple? a painting in an art gallery? Hatshepsut in Sydney? **There are so many examples all over Sydney and surrounds, and elsewhere around the country. Let's compile them – together!**

Take a photo, write a short caption (where, when, who, a brief comment or historical info) and upload it to our picture gallery on >>> [flickr](#) <<< in the Group called ...

Egyptianising Down Under

How to proceed?

(1) Sign up to flickr and thereby create your own "photostream" (folder).

That's where you initially upload your photo(s)

(2) Find our Group (in the "Groups" tab), join it and transfer your photo into our expanding album.

Looking forward to your discoveries! Check it out. Collecting has started.

How better to prepare for 2022 – the year of anniversaries for Egypt-enthusiasts?



ACE/Rundle Lecture Series in 2022 ~ a preview ~

Make sure to join us for events in 2022, which is a **jubilee year** for Egyptology worldwide: 200 years of Champollion's break-through in deciphering hieroglyphs and 100 years since the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun.



**6th Australasian Egyptology
Conference
9–12 June 2022**



to be hosted at Macquarie University

More information in due course.
For now, please save the dates.



Our **ACE/Rundle Lecture Series** is set to continue in 2022.—This year, it has been wonderful to see you join us from far and wide. Therefore, we are aiming to maintain the zoom-option even if we are allowed back on campus for the talks. For now, please reserve the following **Wednesdays 6.30–8.00 pm Sydney time (AEDT)**.

Semester 1

Wed 16 February 2022

Wed 9 March 2022

Wed 13 April 2022

Wed 11 May 2022

Semester 2

Wed 10 August 2022

Wed 14 September 2022

Wed 12 October 2022

Wed 9 November 2022

The first lecture in the new year is held on February 16, 2022:

Speaker: **Dr Sue Kelly**

Lifting the veil: Female social power in Early Egypt (c. 3080–2180 BCE)

Thank you, Sue, for taking the lead. Our next speakers and their topics will be announced in due course.

MALS now open for you to register



Do you know about the **[Macquarie Ancient Languages School \(MALS\)](#)**? Every year during the summer and the winter uni vacation, 1-week intensive language courses are offered – to students and the general public. Enthusiasts come together to delve into Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Hieroglyphic Egyptian and sometimes other ancient and wonderful languages – to advance their knowledge or to add a new language to their growing "collection". **Dates for January 2022: 10–14 January.** These courses are not for credit at uni, but they certainly boost your skills in a fun and motivating way. For Hieroglyphic Egyptian there are 4 levels:

Hieroglyphic Egyptian Beginners	Ideal for students before they formally enrol to learn hieroglyphs at uni. Get a head start on the fundamentals.
Hieroglyphic Egyptian Experienced Beginners	Suitable as a second step after MALS-beginners, after uni-level Hiero A, or after a break. Get plenty of practice, refresh and consolidate your knowledge.
Hieroglyphic Egyptian Intermediate	Suitable if you have completed 2 units of Hieroglyphic Egyptian at uni or an equivalent. If you also wish to advance your understanding of grammar concepts and learn some Hieratic, then this is for you.
Hieroglyphic Egyptian Advanced	Suited for students with 3-4 units of Hieroglyphic Egyptian at uni or an equivalent. Here you will find guided reading of Egyptian texts from various stages of the language. Our advanced readers repeat this level again and again!

Find out more >> [here](#) << and why not enrol?

Rundle Foundation e-Newsletter 5 was compiled by Susanne Binder, November 30, 2021. Many thanks to all who contributed to this edition.

Support us

You like what we do?

Please support the work of Egyptology at Macquarie with a tax-deductible donation to the Rundle Foundation for Egyptian Archaeology.

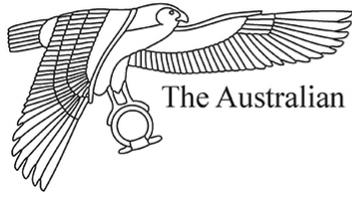
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YOU *to the power of us*



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T: +61 2 9850 7111 | [Ask a question](#)

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